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CIA, NSA say Pelton trial will involve classified data

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WASHINGTON (AP) — The Central Intelligence Agency and the National Security Agency announced yesterday that the prosecution will release classified intelligence information during the espionage trial of former NSA employee Ronald W. Pelton.

Mr. Pelton's trial began Tuesday in federal court in Baltimore.

A joint statement released by the CIA and the NSA said the presentation of the government's case "will include release of certain classified information involving communications intelligence activities of the United States . . . ."

The agencies said the "decision to make use of this information in trial has been made by appropriate government authorities after careful consideration of the demands of trial and the potential harm that release of this selected data may cause the national security."

The statement went on to caution reporters covering the trial "against speculation and reporting details beyond the information actually released at trial."

The joint statement said "such speculations and additional facts are not authorized disclosures and may cause substantial harm to the national security."

Kathy Pherson, spokeswoman at the CIA who released the statement, declined to say whether the statement was aimed at any particular practice or episode.

The *Washington Post* reported yesterday that, during Mr. Pelton's bail hearing last November, a defense attorney used the term "Ivy Bells" for one of the operations Mr. Pelton allegedly compromised.

The *Post* then quoted sources as describing Ivy Bells as a submarine intelligence-collection operation in the Sea of Okhotsk between the Kamchatka Peninsula and the eastern Soviet coastline.

The *Post* said Mr. Pelton allegedly revealed the site of the operation in January 1980 and pointed it out on a map.

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